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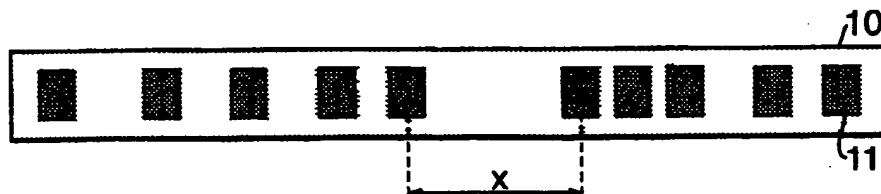
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(54) Title: INFORMATION CODING TECHNIQUES



(57) Abstract: The present application discloses methods of encoding information and in particular to the way in which magnetically or optically detectable elements can be arranged on a substrate so as to encode the information to be stored. An information carrier is described which comprises a plurality of individual detectable elements supported by, or incorporated in, a substrate wherein the spacing between the elements serves to encode the information and is such that it can be represented as  $A + mG$ , wherein  $A$  is a first fixed value,  $m$  is an integer (which may be zero) and  $G$  is a second fixed value, characterised in that the values of the integer  $m$ , are selected to be integers derived by a predetermined mathematical sequence or a random sequence generator.

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